

ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE.

VOL. I. No. 11. FORT PIERCE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1905. 1.00 A YEAR

COURT HAS ADJOURNED

Very Few Cases Heard at the First Term Held in County.

GENERAL PRESENTMENT

Grand Jury Makes Recommendations in New County Affairs.—Comments Sheriff.

The first term of circuit court ever held in St. Lucie county adjourned Monday morning, after an eight day session.

Almost the entire first week was taken by the grand jury, which made its final findings and presentment last Friday. The actual time in trying the cases presented was short, only five cases being disposed of, while two were continued until the next term of court.

State of Florida vs. Jacob N. Hammar, charged with willfully killing the domestic animal of another without malice toward the owner. The defendant was represented by C. T. McCarty. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty and the defendant was discharged.

State of Florida vs. Sam Jones, colored, charged with selling liquor without a license. Defendant was represented by Andrews & Parker. Verdict of guilty was returned, and the court assessed a fine of \$50 or three months in the county jail.

State of Florida vs. Isaac H. Sams, colored, charged with selling liquor without a license. The defendant conducted his own case and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Prisoner was discharged.

State of Florida vs. James Lee, colored, charged with forging and uttering a certain false writing on paper. Case continued, and bond fixed at \$250.

State of Florida vs. Elliot M. Miller, charged with having and keeping and maintaining a gaming room. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the court sentenced the prisoner to three months in the State penitentiary.

State of Florida vs. Cary Fletcher, charged with having carnal intercourse with an unmarried female under 18 years of age. Case continued and bond fixed at \$500.

State of Florida vs. Benjamin E. Cook, charged with keeping a gaming room. Case continued until next term of circuit court.

The following is the general presentment of the grand jury:

General Presentment of the Grand Jury

All term of the circuit court, St. Lucie county, Seventh judicial circuit of Florida.

The grand jury, duly empaneled and empowered to enquire into the body of St. Lucie county, Florida, and presentment make, respectfully make the following general presentment.

We have examined the books of the county officials and found them kept in proper and neat manner. The books supplied are appropriate.

We mention, in a general way, the necessarily temporary quarters of these officers.

We found the offices of the county judge and county clerk located in the personal offices of Judge Andrews. At the inconvenience of his own business, Judge Andrews has tendered the use of his private office rooms to the county. His demands and we regard Judge Andrews' considerate action as worthy of favorable mention.

We regard as especially urgent the need of roomier and better quarters for the county clerk. His present location, in a room of the crowded condition of the office rooms, is necessarily in a very cramped corner, endangering the health of the clerk. We therefore recommend to the proper authorities the immediate necessity for a more healthful location of the county clerk.

In the matter of securing county buildings, court house, jail, etc., we have the utmost confidence in our county commissioners and approve of the methods taken to secure such buildings for the offices of the different officials.

We desire to thank the state's attorney, John C. Jones for his kindness and consideration. For his counsel given in the different matters presented to us, we are especially grateful.

The sheriff is to be commended for the thorough and practical manner in which he conducts his duties.

We welcome Hon. Minor S. Jones, circuit court judge, to our new county and thank him for the courtesies shown us.

E. C. SUMMERLIN, Foreman.

FIRST CASES FILED IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY

The first chancery case filed in the new county of St. Lucie was filed by H. Seymour, attorney and counselor at law, of Miami, for Emma Morgan, Robt. H. Alderman, next friend, Robt. H. Alderman, Emma Morgan, E. L. Leslie, next friend, K. Leslie, his wife; D. L. Leslie and Effie Alderman, his wife,

and the First National Bank of St. Augustine, bill of review to modify a former decree entered in a former suit.

The first common law action was filed by James E. Andrews, attorney at law, for the Antietam Paper Co., a corporation of Maryland, vs. Chas. S. Emerson, assumpsit.

These cases will be a matter of history, as the first two cases of original jurisdiction filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of St. Lucie county.

County Judge's Court.

Judge James E. Andrews held an interesting session of the county judge's court Tuesday morning, when he had before him "Major" Dixon, Van Floyd and Ben Davis. All were charged with gambling, having been caught by Sheriff Lennard while indulging in that gentle game of robbery known as "skin." The judge gave them each three months at hard labor, and to Ben Davis an additional term of three months on a second charge, coupled with the accusation of frequenting places of gambling, an idler and a dissolute character. Sheriff Lennard is making a determined effort to break up the gambling that is going on among the negroes, and to chase out of town those worthless characters that lay around idle and wait for pay day that they may rob the industrious of their earnings.

Corner Stone Laid.

The corner stone of the Fort Pierce Improvement Club's building was laid last Saturday afternoon. There were no special services held, but within the box placed in the corner pier of the building there was placed photographic views of Fort Pierce, prepared by the Florida Photographic Concern, several pieces of coin, a list of the members of the Improvement club, a copy of the first issue of THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE as well as the issue of August 11, (which contained the plans of the building) and the issue of September 22, besides several other articles.

YOUNG LADY IS DROWNED

Accident Occurs Near Lotus in Banana River Saturday

MISS GEIGER THE VICTIM

While in Bathing got in Deep Water and Sank in Sight of Sister and Brother Who Attempted Rescue.

Miss Doris Geiger, about 16 years of age, was drowned Saturday afternoon in the Banana river, near Lotus. She, in company with several sisters and brothers, were out in a row boat and all were anticipating a swim. Miss Doris was the first to plunge in the water. She was not an experienced swimmer and seemed to have got beyond her depth. Her elder brother, Lawton, went to her assistance at once, but owing to the heavy wind and the inability of those in the boat to bring it nearer and give aid, he soon became exhausted. Twice he succeeded in bringing her to the surface, but each time his failing strength compelled him to relinquish his burden. Finally she sank for the last time and the sorrowing, terror stricken party hastened ashore to get assistance.

Search parties were sent out and about 9 o'clock next morning the body was found near where it went down. The funeral was conducted at the home of the dead girl's parents and interment was at Cocoa, Rev. Mr. Meyer officiating.

Miss E. Geiger, who is in charge of the public school at White City, is a sister of the victim of the sad accident. She was notified at once and hastened home. School at White City is closed temporarily. Miss Geiger is well liked in White City and has the sympathy of the entire community.

Laid to Rest.

The remains of the late F. C. Stetson were laid to rest in the Eldred cemetery last Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, a large concourse of friends accompanying the remains to the grave, where Rev. T. W. Tomkies read the beautiful burial service of the Methodist church. The funeral was held under the direction of the undertaking department of Fee & Stewart, and the following acted as pallbearers: R. R. Gladwin, C. L. Faber, Jr., W. J. Nesbitt, H. B. Paxton, S. B. Emerson, and Mr. Helsett.

St. Lucie's Census.

J. T. Waters, of Tibbals, the census enumerator for St. Lucie county, was in town last Saturday, and informed THE TRIBUNE reporter that he had completed taking the census and forwarded his report to the state comptroller. We shall anxiously await the report, as the law forbids the enumerator giving out any information on the subject.

Attorney R. E. Bray, of Jensen, was a passenger on Wednesday's northbound train enroute to Tallahassee.

Ivey Lawson, of Sebastian, was in town all the first part of the week, serving on the circuit court jury.

GRAFT WAS ATTEMPTED

Citizen Did Not Insinuate, But Made Direct Charge.

PROOF IS CHALLENGED

Hot Air Editorials and Baseless Insinuation Will Not Disprove the Charge, Writes Hardee.

Editors TRIBUNE:

The article of "Citizen" in a recent issue of THE TRIBUNE has brought forth in The Fort Pierce News the statement that "Citizen" insinuates his paper overcharged the county for publishing a legal notice. There was no intention on the part of "Citizen" to insinuate; and to correct such an impression I want to state positively that The News DID overcharge the county for publishing a legal notice, and I want to state also, that it did not require the calling in of any one to decide the matter, for the law plainly specifies the kind of type that shall be used, and charged for in doing this class of printing. The News says: "We followed a rule established in every office we have ever been connected with in measuring the type; but a printer who had never worked in anything but a little country office was called in to decide the matter." It is no surprise to hear the admission from the editor of The News that he was following a rule established in every office he had been connected with, for it is generally conceded that he has had some very bad training somewhere in his checkered career; but I wish to say that if he has been connected with newspapers that charged for legal printing as per the bill he presented to the county commissioners of St. Lucie county, he has certainly been in the grafting line and finds it hard to break away from the habit. To prove that I am correct, I will submit his bill to three editors of newspapers in Brevard county, and if they decide that the legal notice referred to was printed according to law and that his bill was correct, I will personally pay to The Fort Pierce News the full amount of bill presented, and if it was not correct, he to refund to the county the amount he did receive for said bill, if this is not a fair proposition I do not know how to make one. If the News editor declines, or ignores this proposition to test the correctness of our respective claim, the public can form its own conclusions as to whether his editorial explaining the matter is not hot air and buncombe of the first water.

"Citizen" did not insinuate that a certain editorial in the News was inspired because of this reduction of a bill, for Citizen knew that the editor did not know it.

The News thinks it "strange how a citizen should know whose bills were cut by the county commissioners, and also to be so ready with an invitation to the News to have its representative at the meeting of the board, quoting, "It is the hit pig that squeals."

At the time "Citizen" wrote the article it was thought best not to sign his name, but it seems that there is an individuality about the writer's communications that render it impossible for identity to be concealed, so it is my intention to sign my name to all future published articles.

The News says: "It is the hit pig that squeals,"—being one of the five county commissioners who have the spending of the taxpayers' money, and being one of the five pigs that was hit by the contemptible editorial which brought forth the communication from "Citizen." I squealed, and in that squeal I made a charge of an attempt at graft by the News, that no hot air editorial explanations are going to disprove.

The News says editorially, that the cutting of his bill was "palpably unfair." This simply means that because the commissioners cut the graft off of his bill, that they have swindled him. It is one of two things, the county commissioners have swindled the Fort Pierce News out of something to which he was legally entitled, or he tried to graft on the county for something he had no right to—this is a plain proposition, and until the editor of the News proves that his bill as presented to the commissioners was legal, I maintain that it was illegal, and was so considered by the board, and I will say further that if he or any other publisher presents the same bill for the same amount of printing, it will promptly be cut as his was.

I am willing that the public shall pass on any matter, either to condemn or approve that I, as one of the five commissioners act in, but I do not propose to have threats of bomb shells, etc., hurled at us by such irresponsible newspapers as the Fort Pierce News; and there is such an uncalled for attack made on the body of men with whom I serve.

I think the public will anxiously wait to see if the action of the commissioners was "palpably unfair" as the News charges editorially. If St. Lucie County has a set of commissioners whose

actions are "palpably unfair" the News had better have them impeached and have the governor appoint some who will pay all bills sent into them without question, especially those coming from the News office; perhaps then the News editor would be happy.

I had no desire to enter into a controversy with the erratic News man, and had sincerely hoped that the kicks, cuffs and poundings that he had received as results of his vicious editorials since coming to Fort Pierce that some decency had been kicked into him, but it seems that the vein of antagonism is still deeper seated than any of those kicks had penetrated. Adverse as my inclination is to going before the public in a controversy with a newspaper which, without any cause, indulges in groundless insinuations and tries to sow the seeds of discord abroad in the land, I shall, when the officers of St. Lucie county are unjustly criticized, step into the arena and defend them, for they are all, so far as I know, doing their utmost to serve the county to the best of their ability. There are citizens who are broad minded enough to work for the upbuilding of St. Lucie county and whose only aim and ambition is to see every department of her governmental affairs placed on par with any other county in the state, and for this end they are uniting their best efforts without hope of reward or fear of punishment, further than the approbation of those who care more for a well regulated, well governed county than for the graft that sometimes accompanies the formation of such organization—the lack of which graft the News editor announces as "palpably unfair."

No doubt it looks unfair to him, but to the taxpayers there is a ring to the plan that sounds good and inspires confidence to those who honestly want to see the peoples money properly spent, and strikes a discordant note in the makeup of professional grafters and malicious insinulators.

W. R. HARDEE

OCCUPATION LICENSE TAX

The Town Council Holds Special Meeting Last Night.

TWO BUILDING PERMITS

Council Adds Many New Occupations to Tax List and Reduces Fish Dealers License from Last Year.

The town council held a special meeting last night, President Fee presiding. A question was raised whether the recent election authorized bonding the town, as the statutes provides that two-thirds of the qualified voters must vote for the measure. It was decided to ascertain how many had neglected to vote, so as to come strictly within the law.

Building permits were issued to the county, for the erection of the clerk and tax assessor's office and to F. R. Horton for a residence.

A controversy having been raised by adjoining property owners regarding the ownership of the strip of ground lying between Pine street and the railroad, known as Church Court, the council laid the matter before the clerk of the circuit court of Brevard county, who sent a communication stating that the ground is a public street belonging to the town of Fort Pierce, and enclosing a plat defining the limits of the street. The communication was placed on file.

The matter of municipal occupation license taxes was taken up and the following provisions made:

Fish houses or dealers are taxed \$12.50 for each place of business within the limits of the town. This tax is \$2.50 lower than for last year. The council considered that the value of the fishing interests to the community and the ratio of expenses to profits in the business warrant the lower rate.

Bakeries are assessed \$2, and \$1 for each wagon; bottling works, \$5; contractors and builders, \$5; lumber dealers and agents, \$20; merchant tailors and agents, \$5; artificial stone manufacturers, \$5; optician or oculist, \$5; traveling opticians, \$25; throwing rings or other missiles at figures, or other games of the kind, or operating slot machines, \$5; wood yard or dealers, \$2; pressing club, \$2.

All other taxes which do not conflict with other ordinances or with state laws or which are not provided for by general state law shall be the same as last year.

All occupations otherwise coming under general state law, one-half of state law.

Frank H. Webber and bride were passengers on yesterday's southbound train enroute to Miami on a short honeymoon trip. Mr. Webber and Miss Bertha Christine Lambdin were married in Jacksonville Wednesday, and are visiting various places of interest along the coast, where Mr. Webber has been favorably known for years.

Mayor R. R. Gladwin is spending a few days in Jacksonville.

FIERCE FIRE LAST FRIDAY

Residence of Frank R. Horton Destroyed in an Hour.

GASOLINE WAS IGNITED

Stove Did Not Explode as Has Been Reported, Nor was It Filled While Burning.

Last Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock the residence of Frank R. Horton on the river front in the southern part of town was discovered to be on fire, and in about an hours time was entirely consumed.

Mrs. Horton had begun to prepare the noon day meal, but finding that the oil in the gasoline stove was low she carefully turned the stove out and attempted to fill the tank. While filling, the burner suddenly sprang afire, and mounted to the tank, where the flames spread to a mattress that was stored in the joists of the building immediately over the stove. Mrs. Horton dragged the stove into the back yard, and returning tried to extinguish the flames in the mattress with sand and water, having in the meantime given the alarm of fire. Her appeals brought the neighbors, and soon the alarm was general, assistance coming from every direction, but nothing could be done to save the building, and every effort was directed to saving as much of the household furnishings as possible.

Practically all the furniture in the sitting room, bed room dining room was saved, as was also some windows, doors, screens and the front piazza. Almost everything in the other rooms were destroyed, which included Mrs. Platt's room, where she lost many valuable keepsakes of years gone by which she prized most highly. An attempt was made by "Kid" Matherson to rescue a silver teapot that was on the dining room table, but finding it impossible to be reached, he knocked it into a barrel of water that was standing near by, and after the fire it was found in good condition.

As the fire in the stove had been carefully turned out, it is supposed that in filling the tank a small quantity of gasoline must have come in contact with the hot burner, which immediately ignited.

While the fire and consequent loss is much regretted by everyone, it is very gratifying to report that work has already commenced on building another home, which will follow the plan of the building that was destroyed, but will be somewhat larger.

Uniforms Have Arrived.

The uniforms for the Fort Pierce baseball club arrived Monday and they are a credit to any organization. They were ordered through Hendry & Goldsmith, the popular clothing firm of Fort Pierce. The material is the same as is used in the regular league uniforms, and has the words "Fort Pierce" across the bosom of the shirt, while the cap, which is a Chicago cap has the monogram "F. P." above the visor. The entire uniform is a credit to any baseball organization, and the home team is to be congratulated on their selection.

An Innovation.

"Dixie" Summerlin, the popular milk dealer, has introduced a new idea that is meeting with great favor with his customers, and is undoubtedly a good move in more ways than one. Instead of dipping or pouring out the customers' milk "in the good old way" Mr. Summerlin has had faucets put in his large milk cans and now "draws" off the lacteal fluid as required, thus insuring a freedom from the dust and dirt that usually accumulates in milk cans.

D. E. Austin has Returned

D. E. Austin, the hustling real estate agent of Jensen and Fort Pierce, returned last night from a months trip in New York and New England. Mr. Austin reports that the prospects for a heavy tourist travel to Florida the coming winter was never better, and that the East Coast will, as usual, get the majority of it.

Took Prisoners to Titusville.

Sheriff Lennard carried two of the St. Lucie county prisoners to Titusville Tuesday night, to be confined in the Brevard county jail for safe keeping. He still has six in his custody in the Fort Pierce calaboose.

FISH SHIPMENTS AT FORT PIERCE

The shipments of fish from Fort Pierce for the past ten days amounted to 170 barrels, varying from 4 barrels on the 24th to 40 barrels on the 21st.

Mrs. Niel Duncan, of North Carolina, arrived in Fort Pierce last Thursday evening on a visit to her sister, Mrs. F. E. Wilson.